

In response to the Office Action of October 8, 2003, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 77, and 79-105 inclusive, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the following claims:

62. (Currently Amended) A method for preserving the original appearance of cementitious, stone, or marble product from the action of atmospheric agents, characterized in that the surfaces of said products are treated with small successive amounts of an aqueous suspension of a colorless colloidal preparations of titanium dioxide or one of its precursors, until the desired thickness is reached.

63. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 62, wherein ~~in which~~ the preparations of titanium dioxide or one of its precursors contain a metal ion chosen from the groups I-VA, and the lanthanide or actinide series of the periodic table, and mixtures thereof.

64. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 63, wherein the preparations of titanium dioxide or one of its precursors contain a metal ion selected from the group consisting of lithium, beryllium, magnesium, ~~scandium, yttrium,~~ lanthanum, cerium, ~~niobium, vanadium, zirconium,~~ and mixtures thereof.

65. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 64, wherein the preparations of titanium dioxide or one of its precursors contain ions selected from the group consisting of magnesium, cerium, ~~niobium,~~ and lanthanum.

66. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 63, wherein the preparations of titanium dioxide or one of its precursors contain the metal ion in an amount

of from 0.1 to 5% (percentage expressed as metal-ion atoms with respect to the titanium atoms).

67. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 66, wherein the preparations of titanium dioxide or one of its precursors contain the metal ion in an amount of from 0.1 to 1%.

68. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 62, wherein the titanium dioxide is prevalently in the form of anatase.

69. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 68, wherein at least 75% of titanium dioxide is in the form of anatase.

70. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 62, wherein the titanium-dioxide precursor is a product able to produce titanium dioxide prevalently in the form of anatase.

71. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 70, wherein the titanium-dioxide precursor is a product able to produce titanium dioxide prevalently in the form of anatase with appropriate types of thermal treatment.

72. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 70, wherein the titanium-dioxide precursor is chosen from the group comprising TiCl_4 , TiOSO_4 , and titanium alkoxide

73. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 62, for the oxidation of polluting substances chosen from the group comprising organic substances present in the environment as a result of motor-vehicle exhaust or industrial emissions, and inorganic compounds.

74. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 74 73, for the oxidation of nitrogen oxides (NO_x).

75. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 62, wherein the titanium dioxide in colloidal form is prepared using sol-gel techniques so as to obtain particles having a size of between 10 and 200 Å.

76. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 75, wherein the particles of titanium dioxide have a size of between 50 and 100 Å.

77. (Cancelled)

78. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~77~~ 62, wherein the colloidal preparation is vacuum-dried so as to obtain a powder which can be re-suspended in water, maintaining its colloidal properties.